

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 remain active in the Application. Claim 1, 5-7, and 9 has been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 10 through 24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 1 stands objected to because of certain informalities.

In response, Applicants have now corrected the stated informalities.

The Office Action states in the section 'Allowable Subject Matter' that claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have opted to incorporate in independent claim 1 the limitations recited in claim 3. Similar amendments have also been made to claims 5, 7 and 9.

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, Applicants believe that they have overcome all the rejections to the application, and respectfully request that all the amendments be entered and that the Examiner pass all the pending claims to issue.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions pertaining to the allowance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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